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SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE FOR PEACE

Inyo and Mono Counties, California P.O. Box 132, Bishop, CA 93514

NEWSLETTER "The choice is no longer between violence and nonviolence. It March, 1989
Volume 3, Number 3 is between nonviolence and nonexistence" ---Martin Luther King Jr. Editor: Kerry Jellison

The American Peace Test

announces

Reclaim the Test Site II

Nonviolent Action to End Nuclear Testing

April 7-16, 1989

Nevada Test Site

Main Rally: "No Taxation for Annihilation"

Saturday, April 15

A Message from SNAP

Members of the Sierra Nevada Alliance for Peace have been active at the APT actions in the past. Last year, approximately forty people from the Eastern Sierra attended the Reclaim the Test Site rally. We have the dubious advantage of living close to Mercury, Nevada. While some people travel across the country at great expense to participate in these actions, we can drive there in about four hours.

The philosophy of SNAP is similar to that of APT: We do not advocate civil resistance as a substitute for the more conventional nonviolent means of political action. However, we recognize that civil resistance can be empowering for some individuals.

SNAP would like to recognize the importance of all participants at the rallies. We encourage everyone to attend the APT action, even if you are certain you do not want to be arrested. Many people are needed "outside the fence" as support personnel. Also, people have found participation at all levels to be rewarding.

If you plan to attend the rally on April 15, you should plan to attend the April SNAP meeting. For more information, please call Bob Jellison at 873-6445.

Next SNAP Meeting

Sunday, April 2 - 7:00 pm

At the next SNAP meeting we will discuss the upcoming APT action. Topics will include:

- affinity group formation
- APT action scenarios
- principles of nonviolence
- t-shirt distribution

Place: **393 Mt. Tom Rd.**, Bishop (Scheidlinger's)
Call 873-8439 for directions or information

A Message from APT

The American Peace Test is dedicated to applying the creative force of nonviolent direct action to the struggle against the nuclear arms race. We believe the philosophies of Mohandis Gandhi, Alice Paul, Martin Luther King Jr. and Cesar Chavez provide excellent models for confronting the great challenge of our age.

We are building a systematic and sustained campaign of direct action and civil resistance as part of a comprehensive strategy to stop nuclear testing and achieve a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. In the three and a half years since our inception, more than 18,000 people have participated in APT-sponsored actions at the Nevada Test Site: thousands have chosen civil resistance and arrest.

The American Peace Test does not view nonviolent civil resistance as a substitute for more traditional forms of political pressure such as electoral work, letter-writing, and lobbying. We encourage all forms of nonviolent political action.

Since May, 1987, protestors who commit civil disobedience at the boundary of the test site have been given a citation and released on their own recognizance. Subsequently their charges have been dropped. This policy will likely continue, but there is no guarantee. Trespassers face a $1000 fine and a 6 month jail sentence.

Several kinds of action scenarios are under discussion by the organizers and actionists who will be participating. On Saturday, April 15, a large rally will be followed by a mass civil resistance action in which thousands are expected to participate. In the 1988 Reclaim the Test Site Action, people entered the test site through the fence or over the cattle guard at the entrance. The final scenario decisions for the upcoming action will be made at the action spokescouncil in the Peace Camp on April 14.

The BLM land immediately south of the Nevada Test Site will be turned into a "Peace Camp" for the duration of the action. We encourage you to camp with your fellow actionists in the desert. Nonviolence training and affinity group formation will be offered each day of the action as needed. We strongly encourage you to attend nonviolence training and affinity group meetings in your local community before coming to Nevada.

For more information, contact:

American Peace Test
PO Box 26725
Las Vegas, NV 89126
(702) 731-9644

LEGISLATIVE REPORT AND ACTION ALERTS

From the Council for a Liveable World:

As expected, Representative Dick Chaney from Wyoming was quickly confirmed as Secretary of Defense. As Chief of Staff under President Gerald Ford, Chaney saw the signing of two major arms control treaties, but he is no friend of arms control. He has voted against all 74 major arms control initiatives that came up before the House in the past 7 years.

Negotiations on the Fiscal Year 1990 Defense Budget will begin in earnest soon. The Congressional Budget Committees will begin their considerations of the President's proposed budget when Bush releases details on April 9. The President has requested $309 billion for Defense in 1990.

The House Armed Services Committee has assembled a task force to investigate and make recommendations on the crisis at the US weapons production facilities. Allegations of environmental contamination prompted the formation of the panel. They will be making recommendations on spending for clean up of DOE war production facilities, such as the Savannah River Plant in South Carolina.

ACTION REQUEST: If you have not written to your congressmen about the FY90 Defense Budget, you are urged to do so. Express concern over the budget deficit, and request that cuts in defense be made to help balance the budget. You may want to discuss specific problems that should be spending priorities, such as child care, AIDS, the homeless, or substance abuse.

Where to Write or Call:

Senator Alan Cranston (202) 224-3553 -or-
Senator Pete Wilson (202) 224-3841
Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

Hon. Bill Thomas (202) 225-2915 (Inyo) -or-
Hon. Richard Lehman (202) 225-4540 (Mono)
House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

For updated information you can call the Council for a Liveable World:

202-543-0006 (Recorded Message)
202-543-4100 (Questions)

Next SNAP Meeting:
Sunday, April 2 - 7:00 pm

393 Mt. Tom Rd., Bishop
Call 873-8439 for more information

Sierra Nevada Alliance for Peace
P.O. Box 132
Bishop, CA 93514

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